

STORIES FOR PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

bloom

FALL 2024





Tania completed her GED and is attending college to earn her degree. She's testified in Frankfort and advocated for legislation in Washington D.C. Tania serves on the Lexington-Fayette Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition Board of Directors.

Tania's story

"We believe this is the only person that is going to save us when they are the person that is ruining us."

I realized that that's why I got targeted, because they look for people that are merciless to themselves. The strong woman that I am would never have allowed that to happen.

But it's not about strength. It's not about knowledge. It's not about being intelligent or unintelligent.

This person strips everything from you. It does not happen overnight. It is a process. By the time they get you to your most vulnerable, you are alone, because they've made sure of that.

Even if you want help, even if you have people in your life, you don't know how to articulate to these people that you need help. You're worried about this person hurting your family, hurting people that you care about.

I made a choice to get out. It doesn't matter when you make that choice. It doesn't matter

why you make that choice. Whatever gets you out of that situation. That's all that matters.

"I found me through all the rubble."

There were times in the shelter I was a hot mess, but you all saw more in me. That's what you need. You need people around you that see something great. It was me saying I was worthy of that.

I want my daughters to see that there is better in life, and they don't have to go down my path. They can go a different way because they are worthy.

That's why I call them my princesses because I want them to know that they are royalty. It doesn't matter where they grow up or if we have a lot of money. Your heart and your mind are what matters.

This is only part of Tania's story, in her own words, shared with permission.



keepy uppy!

MOMENTS OF JOY

Cosplay for a Cause Foundation brings children's favorite characters to life, providing moments of joy and inspiration.

Founded by Elizabeth Redding, Lee Davis, and Greg Frederick in 2020, the foundation supports nonprofits through volunteering, fundraising events, using cosplay to uplift and support children.

Each year members select a local organization to support. Through fundraisers and outreach efforts, including character meet and greets, Cosplay for a Cause has

shown immense support for survivors.

Member Theresa Smith says, "It is an honor and privilege for me to create joy and laughter, allowing both children and adults to forget their hardships for a brief moment. Through this process, our members find solace and healing as well."

The kids living at the shelter have met Bluey, Mirabel, Luisa, Cinderella, Mario, Captain America, Big Bird, and more.



Are you part of a special hobby club that would like to support the mission? We look forward to exploring possibilities. Follow the link at the QR code to begin planning something special.



it's cartoher

DONATING YOUR CAR IS EASY

"I had an emotional connection to that old blue station wagon."

Corissa Phillips, our external relations director, recently donated her 23-year-old vehicle to support the mission. She made the donation through CARS, a nonprofit organization that helps accept and process vehicle donations for other nonprofits.

"It was the first car I ever purchased as an adult, and both my kids drove it at some point during high school and college," she remembers. "It hadn't been started for more than a year."

The donation team assured Corissa the parts had value, even if the car wasn't roadworthy, so long as she had the title. The towing was free, and she wouldn't be charged any fees.

Only a week after initiating the donation, Corissa watched as her old station wagon was towed down the driveway. She was notified it sold at auction two weeks later and \$223.47, equal to 70% of the sale, was being transferred to GreenHouse17.

"I should've done this years ago."

If you have a car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or RV that you'd like to donate to support our mission, call CARS at 855-500-7433 or follow the QR code to our nonprofit profile at [Careasy.org/nonprofit/GreenHouse17](https://careasy.org/nonprofit/GreenHouse17).





October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We're sharing ways you can take action this month, and every month, to challenge injustice and demand change.

Talk to young people in your life about healthy relationships.

Talk with young people in your life about boundaries and respect. Having conversations now can help them identify red flags when it's time to start dating. Share and model what a healthy relationship looks like—talk about respect, equality, safety, and trust.

Ask yourself honestly if your own behavior is truly violence-free.

Healthy relationships require self-awareness. That means you want to find ways to express how you're feeling, practice active listening when your partner is doing the same and work together to find solutions—even when you disagree.

By practicing healthier relationship habits and modeling them for others, you contribute to ending intimate partner abuse.

Ask for policies that guide your workplace or faith place response.

Ask your employer and faith leader about policies that inform their response to domestic violence. Are these policies centered on the safety, healing, and stability of victims? If there isn't a policy, advocate for a best-practice response to be developed. We can help.

By taking a stand against intimate partner abuse today, we support survivors and build a community that will be intolerant of violence for generations to come.

Save the date for this year's Purple Thursday on October 17. This day of wearing purple raises awareness and shows support for survivors. It's an easy way to get work, faith, and friend groups involved. Follow the QR code for more information at GreenHouse17.org/dvam





heart & craft

HANDMADE BY SURVIVORS

"We are all handmade, we are not meant to be perfect, we are just meant to try to be our best selves possible."

Every product from our farm tells a story and is crafted with care by survivors reclaiming their lives.

"I know whoever purchases our products will enjoy them as much as I'm liking being a part of making them."

What began as simple crafts made in microwaves at the shelter has grown to be a line of handmade products enjoyed by supporters across the nation.

Bekah, an advocate with focus on making products, explains, "Women often neglect self-care, especially in abusive relation-

ships where it's discouraged. Our crafting sessions offer a safe space to rediscover and nurture creativity."

The first soaps created during the early years—Fresh Start, Soothing Serenity, Sweet Harmony, and Awaken Joy—are still made today. Soothing Serenity was formulated by two women who loved the scent of rosemary.

"Survivors help every step of the way. Each product is linked to someone's story. It's not just about the product, but the person behind it," Bekah says.

Your purchase of Handmade by Survivors products supports creativity and collaboration to foster healing after abuse. And every item smells so good!



Handmade by Survivors products make wonderful holiday gifts for friends near and far. Consider a Hope Box of handmade products for your corporate gift-giving this season. Visit the "Shop" section at GreenHouse17.org to explore our collection and learn more.

COMMUNITY CARE *nurturing lines*



Although the work to end intimate partner abuse always will be difficult, safer tomorrows are possible in a community that cares about survivors.



We've loved welcoming people to the farm this year during u-pick events and celebrating the buckets of flowers harvested.

Moms and kids had the perfect tea party at Olive's Apron. We're grateful to the staff who took such good care of us and helped create beautiful memories.

Volunteers from Lexington Blue tidied up the vegetable garden and harvested tomatoes, peppers, and kale.

Reba Johnson visited the shelter and shared her inspiring story and pampered residents with Mary Kay Satin Hands.



Ethereal Brewing hosted a Fourth of Ju-Luau celebration and raised money for the mission with a



dunking booth. Thank you to all the businesses who participated!

The third annual HollerGirl was a lovely weekend of celebrating women musicians, survivors, safe spaces, and healing.

We are honored to be chosen as one of the six charities of the Imperial Court of Kentucky for Reign 43.



We were grateful to be a charitable partner once again at the CRAVE food + music festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with parking and our friends at Event Parking Expert.

Our friends from Sol Fitness led a gentle movement class for residents and staff at the shelter.

The Suburban Woman's Club of Lexington hosted us for lunch and donated towels and bedding for the shelter.



Do you have a great idea to support survivors?
Let's chat! Reach out to Hallie at 859-519-1911 or
hlintner@greenhouse17.org.



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October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to take action and identify yourself as an advocate for survivors. **Learn more in this issue.**

Green  House17

Nurturing lives

harmed by intimate partner abuse.



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